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Urban District of Failsworth.



REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1925.




G. BURROWS BROWN, M.B., B.S.,

Medical Officer of Health.

FAILSWORTH:

J. B. Fielding, Printer, Canal Bridge.



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Urban District Council of Failsworth.

Health Committee, 1925-26 :

Councillor R. STOTT, Chairman.
Councillor W. G. T. WADE.
Councillor R. KENNERLEY.
Councillor T. GARLICK.
Councillor A. HENSON.
Councillor W. DUNKERLEY, J.P.
Councillor J. HIBBERT.
Councillor F. W. KEEBLE.
Councillor J. C. BOTTOMLEY.
Councillor J. COX.
Councillor G. E. HOLLAND.
Councillor J. E. COLLINGE.

Medical Officer of Health :

G. B. BROWN, M.B., B.S.

Sanitary Inspector :

JAMES A. JAMES, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Health Visitor :

Nurse E. ANDERTON.

Clerk in Public Health Department :

A. W. JAMES, C.R.S.I.

URBAN DISTRICT OF FAILSWORTH.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1925.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Failsworth Urban
District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting for your consideration my Eighth Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the District for the year 1925, together with the efforts of the Sanitary staff to prevent the spread of disease and to keep in order and improve the condition of the district from a public health standpoint.

The Annual Report for 1925 will be what is termed a "Survey Report," as defined in paragraph 3 of Circular 648 of 10th December, 1925, from the Ministry of Health.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

POPULATION.

The estimated population at the 30th June, 1925, was 17,190. This figure, provided by the Registrar General, is based on the 1921 Census population, after allowance for the varying rates of natural increase as evidenced by the births and deaths, migration, returns, etc.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.

Failsworth is a compact Urban District of 1072 acres, of which 9 acres are covered with water, and is situated between the City of Manchester on the south-west, and the County Borough of Oldham on the north-east. It forms a connecting link between the two places, the houses in the district being contiguous with both city and town. Its lateral boundaries on the north-west again include the City of Manchester and also the Chadderton Urban District, and on the south-east the Limehurst Rural and Droylsden Urban Districts.

There is a gradual rise from 286 feet above sea level at the Manchester extremity to 354 feet above sea level at the Oldham extremity.

The district is divided into two Wards—the Lower near Manchester, and Higher nearer Oldham. This division is effected by the Rochdale Canal, which passes through the district.

The London, Midland and Scottish Railway passes through the district, there being one passenger station. A double line of tramways runs along Oldham Road, a good service of cars being run to Manchester and Oldham. The tramways are leased to the Manchester Corporation for a term of 21 years, as from the 1st April, 1924, the yearly rental being £330. Water traffic is also carried on by means of the Rochdale Canal, and the Hollinwood branch of the Great Central Railway Company's Canal.

The sub-soil is chiefly clay, with sand and gravel in places over-lying the coal measures.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS, ETC.

The district is entirely industrial, the staple industry being cotton spinning and manufacturing. During the year with the depression in trade the cotton mills have been on short time, and this, no doubt, has been the cause of a good deal of hardship.

Other industries comprise ironworks, electrical and engineering works, rubber works, ebonite works, felt hat-making, silk weaving, brickworks, laundries, and a tannery.

There are no collieries situated in the district, but a large area is undermined by workings of adjacent collieries. A number of miners reside in the district.

During the last five years the amount of Poor Law Relief granted to the Township was:—1921, £2,911 1s. 5d. ; 1922, £6,568 19s. 10d. ; 1923, £4,444 3s. 10d. ; 1924, £4,145 11s. 4d. ; 1925, £4,407 18s. 2d. For Poor Law purposes, Failsworth forms part of the Manchester Union.

No gratuitous medical relief, beyond the Poor Law, is instituted in the district.

A public mortuary is erected in the yard at the rear of the Council Offices.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres).....	1072
Population (Estimated 1925) ..	17190
No. of Inhabited Houses (Census 1921)	3719
No. of Families or Separate Occupiers (Census 1921)...	3914
Rateable Value	£97835
Sum represented by a 1d. Rate	£380

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Males.		Females.		Total.
Births in 1925	152	...	139	...	291
Deaths in 1925	83	...	105	...	188

Per 1,000 of Population.

Mean of 5 Years	Birth-rate	Death-rate	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Rate of Deaths under 1 Year to 1000 Births
1895—1899	... 31.5	... 18.7	... 1.46	... 186
1900—1904	... 29.9	... 17.4	... 1.15	... 162
1905—1909	... 27.5	... 15.2	... 1.14	... 132
1910—1914	... 26.0	... 15.3	... 1.28	... 129
1915—1919	... 17.3	... 14.0	... 1.21	... 94
1920—1924	... 19.4	... 12.0	... 0.97	... 82
Year 1924	... 15.0	... 10.9	... 0.81	... 53
1925	... 16.9	... 10.9	... 0.93	... 51
Increase or decrease in 1925 on mean of 5 years, 1920—1924	-2.5	-1.1	-0.04	-31
Previous year...	+1.9	nil	+0.12	-2
Standardizing factor 1.128; Corrected death-rate, = 12.3 per 1000.				

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.**HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.**

(1) **TUBERCULOSIS.**—The Lancashire County Council maintain various Sanatoria, to which cases of tuberculosis from this district are sent.

(2) **MATERNITY.**—Occasionally difficult maternity cases are treated at St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, the Local Authority subscribing annually to this Institution.

(3) **CHILDREN.**—The various Manchester Hospitals are utilised by parents in this district for treatment of children, these hospitals being also supported by the subscriptions of the Local Authority.

(4) **FEVER.**—Accommodation provided at Westhulme Hospital, Oldham, by agreement with the Oldham Corporation.

(5) **SMALLPOX.**—Two beds are retained at the Racefield Hospital, Chadderton, belonging to the Chadderton, Royton, and Crompton Joint Hospital Board.

(6) **PUERPERAL FEVER.**—Accommodation provided at Monsall Hospital, Manchester, by agreement with the Manchester Corporation.

There is no institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, and homeless children in the district.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) **General.**—In cases of general sickness a nurse of the Fails-worth and New Moston Sick Nursing Association is available, and visits are made upon the written request of a medical practitioner. No arrangement is made by the Local Authority with the Nursing Association.

(*b*) For Infectious Diseases, &c.—There are no arrangements for the supply of professional nurses in cases of infectious disease. Where efficient isolation can be obtained in cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria, the patient is nursed at home by the mother or some other member of the family. In cases where such conditions do not obtain, the patients are removed to hospital and treated at the expense of the Local Authority.

The County Authorities maintain one nurse for duties in connection with their tuberculosis scheme.

MIDWIVES.

No midwife is employed or subsidised by the Local Authority. There are five midwives on the Register, and all are actually practising.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.

On September 12th, 1917, this Centre was opened in the Free Library, where a room was placed at our disposal every Wednesday afternoon, from 2 p.m. to 4-45 p.m.

There are no clinics or treatment centres in the district for tuberculosis or venereal diseases, these being provided by the County Authorities at Oldham (for tuberculosis and venereal diseases) and Manchester (for venereal diseases).

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(*a*) Infectious Cases.—All cases of infectious diseases, excepting smallpox, are removed by the Oldham Corporation. Smallpox cases are taken to hospital by the ambulance belonging to the Chadderton, Royton, and Crompton Joint Hospital Board.

(*b*) Non-infectious and Accident Cases.—Arrangements have been made with the Town Council of the County Borough of Oldham for a Motor Ambulance Service, available day and night, for the removal of cases of accident occurring within the Failsworth District, and also of patients residing in the District, to Hospitals, Infirmarys, and Nursing Homes, etc.

BYE-LAWS AND ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT.

BYE-LAWS.						Came into force.
New Street and Buildings	...	..	...	...	...	21st February, 1899
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	13th March, 1900
Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	...	13th March, 1900
Offensive Trades	...	..	...	...	...	20th March, 1900
Hackney Carriages	...	...	...	...	...	26th March, 1900
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	1st February, 1898

ACTS.

The undermentioned Adoptive Acts are in force in the district :—

Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889, adopted 8th September, 1892. Came into force 20th October, 1892.

Extended so as to apply to following diseases :—

Ophthalmia Neonatorum, from 1st November, 1910.

Acute Poliomyelitis and Cerebro-Spinal Fever, from 1st April, 1912.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890—

Part III., adopted 1st April, 1896; came into force 1st June, 1896.

Part IV., adopted 13th June, 1912; came into force 1st August, 1912.

The Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890. Adopted 7th December, 1899; came into force 1st February, 1900.

The Public Libraries Acts, 1892 and 1893. Adopted 13th October, 1903; came into force 1st December, 1903.

The Private Street Works Act, 1892. Adopted 12th February, 1907; came into force 1st April, 1907.

The Notification of Births Act, 1907. Adopted 13th January, 1910; came into force 16th February, 1910.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907. Section 50, came into force 26th March, 1910; Section 86, came into force 31st December, 1912.

Sections 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, *27, 28, 29, *30, 31, 32 and 33, comprised in Part II.

Sections 34, *35, 36, 37, *38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 49 and 51, comprised in Part III.

Sections 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, *59, 60, 62, 63, 64, 65 and 68, comprised in Part IV.

Section 95, comprised in Part X.

All the above came into force 21st March, 1913.

* Sections 27, 30, 35, 38 and 59 are subject to certain conditions and adaptations.

Sections 76 and 77 comprised in Part VI. Came into force 18th July, 1922.

The Baths and Wash-houses Acts, 1846 to 1899. Adopted 8th February, 1912.

Order under Section 51 of Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907. Declaring certain Trades to be Offensive Trades. Confirming Order made 24th November, 1913.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

The district obtains its water supply mainly from the Oldham Corporation, which is obtained from moorland gathering grounds, and is procured within ten miles of the district. No cases of lead poisoning have occurred.

Some 113 houses in outlying parts of the district, and adjoining the Manchester boundary, are supplied by the Manchester Corporation, with the consent of the Oldham Corporation.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The river Medlock adjoins the Sewage Works, and receives the sewage effluent. It flows along the south-east border of the district. The sewage effluent has satisfied the Mersey and Irwell Joint Committee. On the opposite boundary of the district is the Moston Brook, which flows into the river Irk. No complaints have been made of this brook during the year. A smaller brook, named Lord's Brook, flows into the Medlock, and another small stream occurs near the Cemetery.

STREETS.

During the year ending 31st December, 1925, the following streets and passages have been paved, metalled, sewered and kerbed :—

STREETS.—Fairbrother Street, West Street, Piercy Street, Densmore Street, and Clayton Street.

PASSAGES.—Passage rear of "Mare and Foal" Inn, Ashton Road West, and Nos. 16-30, Piercy Street. Passage rear of Nos. 86-96, Ashton Road West and Nos. 2-14, Piercy Street. Passage rear of Nos. 15-31, Piercy Street and 16-34, Densmore Street. Passage rear of Nos. 1-13, Piercy Street, and abutting on vacant land. Passage rear of Nos. 15-35, Densmore Street, and Nos. 16-38, Clayton Street. Passage rear of Nos. 15-39, Clayton Street, and Nos. 16-48, Rothwell Street.

A loan for the above work was sanctioned by the Ministry of Health for £6,022, and the work was carried out at a cost of £5,555. The work in connection with this improvement was very urgently required, as during, and after heavy rains the streets and passages in question were simply a quagmire and obviously constant menace to the health of the people in the neighbourhood.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

A notable improvement has been the reconstruction of the sewers in the Hardman Lane area, due to colliery workings and subsidence, and which has involved the taking out the defective earthenware pipes, and laying cast-iron pipes in lieu of same. The cast-iron pipes were laid on a Portland Cement Reinforced Concrete foundation from Old Road to Dean Street.

The sewers in Dean Street, Ward Street, Manwaring Street, and Hale Lane, and the passage sewer at the rear of Dean Street were reconstructed with glazed earthenware pipe sewers, with the requisite manholes, etc. The work was carried out at a total cost of £4,819.

One hundred and thirteen yard drains have been entirely reconstructed to the sewers during the year.

The smoke or water test is applied to all drains before being covered in.

The sewers in the district are partly brick and partly pipe. Most of the storm water finds its way into the sewers. They are periodically flushed by water-carts, and are ventilated by open manholes and gratings. House drains are well trapped, and soil pipes are properly ventilated. The sewage is treated at the Council's Sewage Works.

TREATMENT OF SEWAGE AT DISPOSAL WORKS.—The dry-weather flow of sewage is 507,315 gallons. The sewage enters the works through a cast-iron main, 3 feet in diameter, and passes over a water-wheel, which breaks up the solids, and at the same time works a lime mixer. The crude sewage is treated with lime and ferrous sulphate, and passes through two detritus tanks, on through six upward flow tanks to two settling tanks, after which it flows into eight sprinkler filters, the effluent being subjected to humus tanks and strainer filters before being discharged into the river Medlock.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Particulars of this will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

REFUSE REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL.

This work is carried out by the Council's own manual and team labour with the exception of a number of houses at the extreme end of the Lower Ward, for which a hired team is engaged. Three teams are maintained by the Council for scavenging the district. During the year 33 pail closets and 23 privy closets have been converted to fresh-water closets, and 8 additional fresh-water closets have been provided at 2 workshops and 2 dwelling-houses.

The nightsoil from the pail closets is passed down the chute at Shaw Head Farm direct into the sewer.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Particulars of these will be found in the Inspector's Report.

SCHOOLS.

During the year there were 5 elementary day schools—Mather Street Council School, Minor Street Council School, St. John's School and Holy Trinity School (both National), and St. Mary's (Roman Catholic). All the schools are supplied with town's water, and are provided with closets on the water-carriage system.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

These consist of a tannery and two tripe boiling premises. All have been in existence a considerable time. No complaints were received, and the businesses are carried on so as to be free from nuisance.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

I.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces, Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

PREMISES	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	20	1	...
Workshop (including Workshop Laundries)	70	7	...
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this report).....	120	6	...
Total.....	210	14	...

II.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.

PARTICULARS	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecu- tions
	Found	Remedied	Referr'd to H.M. Inspector	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness	6	6	...	...
Want of Ventilation	2	...	...	...
Overcrowding .....	...	...	...	...
Want of drainage of floors.....	...	...	...	...
Other nuisances.....	3	3	...	...
Sanitary accommodation {	insufficient	3	...	...
	unsuitable or defective	2	...	...
	not separate for sexes.....	...	...	...
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (S. 101)...	...	...	...	...
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (SS. 97 to 100) .....	...	...	...	...
Other offences (excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this Report) .....	...	...	...	...
Total.....	16	14	..	...

* Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

III.—Home Work.

NATURE OF WORK.	Outworkers' Lists.					
	Sending twice in the year.			Sending once in the year.		
	Lists.	Outworkers.		Lists.	Outworkers.	
		Con-tractors.	Work-men.		Con-tractors.	Work-men.
Wearing Apparel, Making (Hat Trimming)	2	...	2	...	...	..
Total	2	...	2	...	...	...

IV.—Registered Workshops.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.	Number.
Bakehouses	31
Shoemakers and Cloggers	9
Milliners	3
Tailors	3
Hand Laundries	1
Shoeing Smith.....	1
Joiners	5
General	9
Total number of Workshops on Register.....	62

V.—Other Matters.

Class.	Number.
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshops Acts, 1901	<div> <div>Notified by H.M. Inspector</div> <div>1</div> </div>
	<div> <div>Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector on Completion.</div> <div>0</div> </div>
Underground Bakehouses— In use at the end of the year	None

HOUSING.

I.—GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS IN THE DISTRICT.

The district is a fairly open one, and there is no extensive slum area or congestion of property, although there is a fair amount of old property. Houses are generally built of brick, and in the older type have large common yards at the rear. There are no back-to-back houses, but a few have no back doors. A feature of the older houses is the unpaved area around same and fixed windows.

(a) Extent of shortage or excess of houses.—It is estimated that 40½ houses are required in the district to (1) abate overcrowding, (2) replace unfit houses, and (3) to meet the natural growth of population during the next 2 years. The number of applicants for houses on the Council's waiting list, 31st December, 1925, is 175.

(b) Measures taken or contemplated to meet any shortage.—The number of houses likely to be built is estimated as follows :—

(a) By the District Council—80 houses.

(b) By private enterprise—80 houses (to be commenced by October, 1926).

Plans have been submitted by the Council to the Ministry of Health for the first 40, with a density of 13.93 to the acre. This is slightly in excess of the usual standard, but is considered not to be excessive for the neighbourhood, and is proposed with a view to economy in cost. The houses to be built by private enterprise will be 10 to the acre.

It is anticipated that one half of the houses to be built by the District Council will be completed within 12 months from the date of the proposals being approved, and the remainder within two years from such date.

II—OVERCROWDING.

(1) EXTENT.—There are 97 houses, containing more than two occupants per room (the standard laid down in the Housing Survey), the number of occupants being 972.

(2) CAUSES.—The overcrowding is caused by: (a) large families living in four-roomed houses; (b) more than one family living in a house, due to the shortage of houses; (c) a large number of employed persons in the district who reside in lodgings.

(3) PRINCIPAL CASES OF OVERCROWDING DURING THE YEAR 1925, AND ACTION TAKEN.—Two cases of overcrowding were dealt with during the year; in one of the cases it was found necessary to serve Statutory Notice to abate the nuisance. Both cases were abated without recourse to legal proceedings.

The question of dealing with overcrowding, except in extreme cases, is in abeyance until additional housing accommodation has been provided.

III.—FITNESS OF HOUSES.

(1) There is a fair amount of old property in the district. The majority of houses are the type usually found in Lancashire, comprising: Living room, kitchen, scullery, and two bedrooms. These houses are almost wholly without bathrooms.

The defects usually found are defective roofs and eaves gutters, dampness, want of damp-proof course, defective yard paving, insufficient light and ventilation, and lack of food store.

The above defects are in the majority of cases due to lack of proper management and supervision by owners, and through lack of attention in painting, repairing, pointing, etc.

These defects being remedied only when either a Formal or Informal Notice has been served.

(2) General action taken as regards unfit houses under:—

(a) THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS. All cases of unfit houses are dealt with under the Public Health Acts.

(b) THE HOUSING ACTS.—As we are usually successful in getting owners of property to make the necessary alterations and repairs, there has been no necessity to resort to the powers given under the Housing Acts.

(3) Difficulties found in remedying unfitness, etc.—We have, as a rule, been successful in getting owners to remedy unfitness under the Public Health Acts.

(4) The water supply is obtained from the Oldham Corporation and has been very satisfactory. The question of closet accommodation and refuse disposal is dealt with in other parts of this Report.

IV.—UNHEALTHY AREAS.

There are no areas in this district classified as unhealthy areas.

V.—BYE-LAWS RELATING TO HOUSES, ETC.

The Bye-Laws governing new streets and buildings were adopted in 1899, and those respecting nuisances and offensive trades in 1900.

No Bye-Laws for “tents, vans, sheds, etc.,” or “houses-let-in-lodgings” are in force in this district.

The need for new Bye-Laws, or revision of existing Bye-Laws, for “new streets and buildings” has arisen, and new Bye-Laws have been submitted to the Ministry of Health.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	Nil
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts—	
(i) By the Local Authority	Nil
(ii) By other bodies or persons	Nil
Number of houses in course of erection under Council's Building Scheme	Nil
Financial assistance for purposes of increasing housing accommodation	Nil
Have any advances been made during 1925—	
(a) By loans? No. No. Nil. Amount of loans Nil.	
(b) By subsidy? No. No. Nil. Amount of subsidy Nil.	

UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

(i.) INSPECTION.

1. Total Number of Houses Inspected for Housing Defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	344
2. Number of Dwelling-houses which were Inspected and Recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	50
3. Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
4. Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-section) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.....	250

REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

Number of Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	342
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ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 3 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1925.

1. Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
2. Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—	
(<i>a</i>) By Owners	Nil
(<i>b</i>) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil
3. Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close	Nil

B—PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

1. Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	52
2. Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—	
(<i>a</i>) By Owners	17
(<i>b</i>) By Local Authority in default of Owners.....	Nil

C—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11, 14 AND 15 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1925.

1. Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders.....	Nil
2. Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
3. Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the Dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	Nil
4. Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
5. Number of Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

<i>D</i> —Number of houses demolished voluntarily by owners, or converted to workshops, etc.	11
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PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever was the most prevalent during the period 1921-1925. The highest number being recorded in 1921 and 1922, the figures for which were 150 and 133.

The numbers for 1923, 1924 and 1925 were:—78, 61 and 54, respectively.

The deaths from scarlet fever during the period in question were:—

1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
3	4	—	2	2

Owing to its mild type possibly many children affected with sore throats were really suffering from a mild type of scarlet fever; but no medical practitioner being called in, these cases were not notified, and no steps taken to isolate them.

ENTERIC FEVER.—In 1924 ten cases of Enteric Fever were notified, one case proving fatal. It was ascertained after careful enquiries into these cases (which were spread over the whole of the year) that four out of the 10 had partaken of mussels or watercress, and at three of the premises the drains were defective, and were later reconstructed.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA (Sleepy Sickness).—The number of cases and deaths from this disease was as follows:—

	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	Total
Cases.....	2	2	—	1	12	8	25
Deaths	—	—	—	—	4	1	5

Special investigations were made in the case of each patient notified. Observations and noteworthy facts on the diagnosis were invited from the Medical Practitioner attending the case, and these were forwarded, along with the enquiries, to the County Medical Officer of Health. The occurrence of the disease appears to precede or follow outbreaks of influenza, and there is, therefore, a close connection established between the two. The after-results of this dangerous malady are in many cases serious.

PNEUMONIA.—The number of cases and deaths from Pneumonia was as follows:—

	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	Total
Cases.....	51	55	94	63	72	65	400
Deaths	11	16	23	18	9	17	94

Debilitated persons, intemperate persons, the aged, the poor, and those living the artificial life of our towns have been specially liable to attack, and have suffered from the disease severely.

DIPHTHERIA ANTI-TOXIN.—A supply of diphtheria anti-toxin is provided by the Council, free of charge, for the treatment of residents in Failsworth. This being kept at the Health Department, Town Hall, and at the residence of the Medical Officer of Health. 318,000 units were supplied to medical practitioners during 1925.

No "return" cases of scarlet fever were discovered during the period.

MALARIA AND DYSENTERY.—During the 5 years, ending 1925, nineteen cases of Malaria, and two cases of Dysentery were notified. In every case the patient had served in H.M. Forces overseas.

PATHOLOGICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Number of specimens examined in 1925 (1) by Public Health Laboratory, Manchester:—

Blood 3. Sputum 2. Throat Swabs 7.

Swabs for Ophthalmia Neonatorum Nil. Others Nil.

(2) By Dr. J. L. Stewart, Consultant Tuberculosis Officer for the Area.

Sputum 62.

ACTION TAKEN IN REGARD TO (a) CONTACTS, (b) RETURN CASES, (c) CARRIER CASES.

(a) All contacts kept from school until two weeks after house and bedding have been disinfected; notice is sent to the head teacher, and necessary instructions given as to exclusion, etc. (b) nil. (c) nil.

PUBLIC HEALTH (SMALLPOX PREVENTION) REGULATIONS, 1917.

Number of vaccinations performed by the Medical Officer of Health :

(a) Primary 15. (b) Re-vaccination nil.

METHODS OF DEALING WITH INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

On receipt of a notification the house is visited by the Sanitary Inspector, and particulars as to character of house, number of occupants, schools attended by children, milk supply, etc., are obtained, and any possible source of infection is thoroughly investigated. If school children are concerned, the headmaster of the school attended is at once notified, and children from the house are not allowed to attend school. Isolation of the patient is insisted upon, and if this cannot be satisfactorily carried out at home, arrangements have been made whereby the patient is removed to the Westhulme Isolation Hospital, Oldham.

Printed instructions as to methods of isolation, etc., are left at the house. Izal fluid and soap are supplied free of charge. Houses where cases are being treated at home are kept under observation by the Sanitary Inspector, and during the year 219 visits were paid to such houses.

As soon as the patient is certified as being no longer infectious, the infected room or rooms are fumigated with formaldehyde vapour, and the walls sprayed with formalide, and papered rooms are required to be stripped and the walls washed down. Bedding is removed for disinfection by steam in the Oldham Corporation Disinfector.

Any nuisances and defects at infected houses are noted and dealt with.

In cases of enteric fever, special sanitary receptacles are provided, and the contents disposed of by the sanitary authority.

During the year 136 houses have been disinfected, and 432 articles of clothing, bedding, etc., have been disinfected by the steam disinfector belonging to the Oldham Corporation.

All the schools were disinfected, and closets, drains, and gullies flushed during the year :—Mather Street Council School, Holy Trinity School, St. Mary's School, St. John's School, and Minor Street Council School.

There is no steam disinfector in the district, the disinfection of all clothing being carried out by the Oldham Corporation.

No facilities exist in the district for the cleansing and dissection of verminous persons and their belongings.

3.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1925.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.													HOSPITAL.	
	Total Cases at all Ages	AT AGES.—YEARS.											Total Deaths.	Total Cases remov'd to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district.
		Under 1.	1 to 2.	2 to 3.	3 to 4.	4 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 20.	20 to 35.	35 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and over.		
Small-pox.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet fever	54	...	3	4	6	6	11	14	4	6	...	...	...	37	2
Diphtheria & Membranous croup	22	...	...	...	2	4	5	2	2	3	3	1	...	11	2
Enteric fever (including Paratyphoid)...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Acute Primary and Acute Influenzal Pneumonia.....	65	14	6	4	2	5	1	3	2	6	10	8	4	...	...
Puerperal fever	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2	1
Encephalitis Lethargica.....	8	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	4	...	...	...	1	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	23	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	3	5	10	1	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	21	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3	3	4	7	1	12	7
Other forms of Tuberculosis.....	10	1	...	...	...	1	3	...	1	3	...	1	...	1	1
Malaria—Contracted in this Country.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abroad.....	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...
Trench fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-pox.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	214	20	9	8	10	16	26	22	14	30	25	28	6	65	13

TUBERCULOSIS.

The Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1924, which came into operation 1st January, 1925, made it necessary to revise the Tuberculosis Register back to 1912, owing to the large number of patients who had (1) died; (2) removed from the district; (3) the diagnosis of tuberculosis was agreed not to be established; or (4) the patient had attained a condition in which he could be regarded as cured.

Owing to the help of Dr. Stewart (Consultant Tuberculosis Officer of the Area) and his staff, the task of eliminating those patients who had left the district, or died from causes other than tuberculosis, was rendered easier, and a large number were crossed off the Register.

The total number on the Register at the end of 1925 was:—

Pulmonary—Males, 43 ; Females, 38—81
Non-Pulmonary—Males, 27 ; Females, 31—58 } 139.

Pulmonary tuberculosis includes tuberculous pleurisy, and tuberculosis of the larynx, nose, throat, bronchial glands and mediastinal glands.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1925.

Age—Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS (The number of deaths classified should agree with the totals supplied by the Registrar General).			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Years								
0—1 .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
1—5 .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
5—10.....	1	1	2	1	...	...	...	...
10—15.....	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
15—20.....	...	3	...	1	...	...	...	1
20—25.....	...	...	2	1	...	1	...	...
25—35.....	1	2	...	...	...	4	...	...
35—45.....	2	2	...	...	...	2	...	...
45—55.....	3	1	...	...	2	2	...	...
55—65.....	1	2	...	1	2	1	...	...
65 and upwards...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Totals	9 12 21		4 6 10		6 10 16		3 3 3	

Out of the 19 total tuberculosis deaths, 2 were cases which had not been notified.

The notification of tuberculosis in this district is quite efficient, and no action has been necessary in cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

No action has been necessary relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade, nor for the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from the disease.

The duties of tuberculosis visitation are carried out by the staff of the County Council. Paper handkerchiefs and cardboard sputum cups are kept in the Health Department, and are given on demand.

Disinfection of the rooms and bedding is carried out in all cases of pulmonary tuberculosis when the patient dies, removes from the district, or enters sanatorium.

Sixty-two examinations of sputum were made by Dr. J. L. Stewart, 14 of these being positive and 48 negative. Two specimens were sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, both giving a negative result.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The County Authorities are responsible for the supervision of midwives.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre was open on 52 occasions during the year, the average number of children attending at each opening being 149.

Each child is weighed at every attendance and the weight marked on a small card, which the mother keeps, and also recorded in a register kept at the Welfare.

Dried milk and other Infants' foods are supplied at cost price to the mothers, under the directions and on the recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health.

The Medical Officer attends once each fortnight, and sees any cases sent in by the nurse or any mother who desires to see him.

During the early part of 1925 permission was obtained from the Ministry of Health to build a perambulator shelter adjoining the Council Offices. This has supplied a long felt want, and incidentally removed the nuisance and annoyance caused by the obstruction of the footpath by the perambulators.

REPORT OF THE HEALTH VISITOR.

Notificaton of births received during the year	267
Number of births not notified	5
Number of new cases visited (infants)	263
Number of subsequent visits (infants)	1915
Number of visits to children between 1 and 5 years	1765
Number of visits to expectant mothers	24
Number of children fed on breast milk only	255
" " " " and other substitutes ..	8

Included in the above are the following :—

Number of children died before visiting day	1
" " stillborn	7
" " premature stillborn children	1
Number of times Welfare Centre was open	52
Number of attendances	7799
Average attendance.....	149

It will be observed that a large number of children are breast-fed which is very satisfactory, as this is undoubtedly the best and cheapest food for the baby.

PUERPERAL FEVER.—Two case were notified. The County Authorities, being responsible for the administration of the Midwives Act, are notified of each case.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.—Four cases were notified and visited by me, the number of visits paid being 61. These were also reported to the County Authorities. None of the cases show signs of injury and all have fully recovered.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

- (1) G. BURROWS BROWN, M.B., B.S., Medical Officer of Health (part time) and Medical Attendant to Child Welfare Centre.
- (2) JAMES A. JAMES, Cert. R.S.I., Cert. of Meat and other Foods, R.S.I., Cert. San. Insp. Assn. Exam. Board (whole time).
- (3) Mrs. E. ANDERTON, Cert. C.M.B., Health Visitor and Nurse to Child Welfare Centre (whole time).
- (4) A. W. JAMES, Cert. R.S.I., Clerk in Health Department (whole time).

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

It is noteworthy, particularly in these days, of short time in our cotton mills, and depression in trade generally, that the vital statistics present such a favourable aspect.

The infantile death-rate for 1925 is the lowest recorded on the district, viz., 51. The annual death-rate of 10.9 compares favourably with the annual death-rate of England and Wales, viz., 12.2. The number of births show an increase of 31 on last year's total; but one cannot look on this number with satisfaction, as there has been a steady decrease in the number of births for many years now in this area.

Notable amongst the improvements during the past five years have been :—

- (1) The reconstruction of the sewers in the Hardman Lane area, at a cost of £4,819.
- (2) The provision of two recreation grounds, one in the Higher and one in the Lower Ward.

The Higher Ward recreation ground consists of nearly four acres, and provision has been made for 2 bowling greens, 6 tennis courts, children's playground, shelters, bowl stores and sanitary conveniences complete. The ground was opened on 23rd June, 1923, the total cost being £7,428.

The Lower Ward recreation ground consists of $9\frac{1}{2}$ acres (approx.), $5\frac{1}{2}$ acres of which have been laid out, and provision has been made for 2 bowling greens, 6 tennis courts, children's playground, shelters, bowl stores and sanitary conveniences complete. The ground was opened on 19th July, 1924, the total cost being £9,682. There is an area of $11\frac{3}{4}$ acres adjoining this recreation ground which is intended to be levelled and used for recreative purposes.

The land in connection with both recreation grounds was presented to the Council by the Local War Memorial Committee.

- (3) The construction of a new arterial road, "Broadway," which was formally opened for public use by Lt.-Col. the Right Hon. W. W. Ashley, M.P., Minister of Transport, on Saturday, the 28th February, 1925.

The above works of improvement to the district were carried out as Unemployment Relief Schemes, and undertaken in conjunction with the Unemployment Grants Committee.

As I have had to draw attention from time to time in my annual reports of the necessity for the abolition of privy middens, pail closets and ashpits on the district, so it seems to me only fair that in my report for 1925 (which covers a period of five years) that special emphasis and mention should be made of the large number of these abominations having been swept away, and great credit and praise is due to your Sanitary Inspector for his energy and success in getting so many of these nuisances abolished. Another great improvement during the five years in question has been the abolition of the insanitary closets and urinals in connection with the public houses and hotels on the district, and the provision of suitable and separate closet accommodation for the sexes, and new salt-glazed stoneware urinals with water laid on.

In conclusion, I would like to express my thanks to the Health Committee, Surveyor, Sanitary Inspector and other officials for their valuable assistance and practical help given throughout the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE BURROWS BROWN,

Medical Officer of Health.

7.—REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Failsworth Urban
District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1925, and the measure of progress made in the area during the preceding five years in the improvement of the public health.

Notable sanitary improvements during 1925 have been—the abolition of 26 covered and 10 uncovered ashpits, and 10 covered and 3 uncovered middens; the conversion of 23 privy and 33 pail closets, and the substitution of 64 fresh water closets in lieu of same. The yard drains at 113 houses have been entirely reconstructed to the Council's sewers, and the necessary flagging of the yard surfaces has been carried out in each case.

A definite policy has been in vogue in this district for some years for the abolition of privy and pail closets.

On the 16th February, 1920, a loan (based upon the Council Surveyor's specification and estimate, including 5 per cent. contingencies, dated October, 1919) for £12,500 was sanctioned by the Ministry of Health to enable us to deal with 825 pail closets. After ascertaining, by converting 6 pails to water closets, that the average cost worked out at £10 9s. 11d. per conversion, it was resolved that the work should be put in hand. Tenders were asked for the plumbing work, the contractor to supply the lead service pipes, overflow pipes and stop-tap for each closet; the Council to do the drainage and flagging by direct labour, and the brickwork was let out to local contractors as day work.

The work was let out in three batches of 200, and the fourth 253. The total number reached therefore, including the 6 to ascertain the cost, was 859.

These conversions were commenced on the 20th February, 1922, and finished on the 24th May, 1923.

During 1925 it will be seen that 28 pail closets have been converted to water closets under the scheme, making a total of 887 pail closets altered to water closets since 1922. In addition 20 pail closets have been abolished outside the scheme.

Number of pail closets at the end of 1920—1041.

Number of pail closets at the end of 1925—137 plus 6 in temporary use at caravans.

PRIVY CLOSETS.—At the end of 1920 there were 128 privy closets in the district, and at the end of 1925 only 45 of these remain.

The difficulty that confronts us now is the insufficiency of sewer and water supply with regard to the remaining privies and pails, otherwise there would be no question of these being dealt with and converted to the fresh water system.

ASHPITS.—The abolition of insanitary covered and uncovered ash-pits has been steadily progressing during the last 5 years.

The number of ashpits at the end of 1920 was :—

Covered 202 ; Uncovered 39 ; Total 241.

The number of ashpits at the end of 1925 was :

Covered 46 ; Uncovered 1 ; Total 47.

Galvanized iron ashbins have been provided in lieu of the above fixed receptacles. The number of movable receptacles have increased by 497 since 1920. In 1925 the number of metal ashbins provided in place of the 36 ashpits abolished was 58.

As will be readily understood, much time, apart from supervising the above works, has been entailed in interviewing the different owners, agents and contractors, and preparing the necessary specifications.

The duties in connection with the health of the public have been materially increased with the introduction of recent Acts, Orders and Regulations ; especially has this been felt with the coming into operation of the new Meat Regulations, which makes it desirable that proper examination be made of all carcasses and organs intended for human food.

During the year the number of premises visited or inspected was 1,700, including houses where infectious diseases were notified, factories, workshops, slaughter-houses, offensive trades, cowsheds, milkshops, stables, piggeries, and general premises, etc.

Some 3,400 visits or inspections were made.

Informal notices served 145

Statutory notices served 173

THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT SHOWS THE NATURE AND THE AMOUNT
OF WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR.

Nature of work done.	No. of Cases.
Damp premises... ..	58
Metal ashbins provided in lieu of defective wood boxes....	53
Wood ashboxes repaired.....	9
Metal ashbins renewed	152
Additional ashbins provided in lieu of ashpits, etc., abolished	61
Choked drains or water-closets cleared	45
Drains amended or re-constructed.....	113
Defective sanitary fittings repaired or renewed	59
Sink waste pipes renewed or repaired	36
Leaky roofs repaired	46
Premises with gutters, fallpipes, etc., repaired or renewed	52
New ventilating shafts erected	8
Yard surfaces repaired.....	108

Accumulations or deposits of manure, animal refuse, etc., remedied.....	13
Dirty houses cleansed.....	4
Premises where floors have been repaired or renewed	32
Uncovered privy middens abolished.....	3
Covered privy middens abolished	10
Nuisances from keeping of animals, etc., remedied	1
Overcrowding	2
Miscellaneous nuisances remedied.....	200
Pail closets converted to fresh-water closets	33
Privy closets converted to fresh-water closets	23
Covered ashpits abolished	26
Uncovered ashpits abolished	10
Closet structures repaired	51
Defective W.C. basins replaced.....	5
New Urinal erected	1
Ventilating shafts repaired	3
	<hr/>
	Total...1217

SMOKE NUISANCE.

During the year 70 observations have been taken, each of the duration of 30 minutes, and on 14 occasions the time limit adopted by the Council in February, 1908, was exceeded.

Statutory notices were served on ten of the offenders, the others being cautioned. Following the statutory notices legal proceedings were taken on three occasions—the results being:—

- (1) Fined £3 13s., and abatement order made.
- (2) Fined £4 5s., " " "
- (3) Abatement order made and costs of 8s. 6d. imposed.

In addition to the number of observations being taken, statutory notices served, and legal proceedings instituted, large printed cards, entitled "Hints to Boiler Attendants," were sent to every firm in the district with beneficial results. A covering letter accompanied each, requesting that the card be hung up in the boiler-house with a view to reducing and abating the nuisance caused by black smoke.

The time limit for black smoke is as follows:—

Where 1 or 2 boilers are working, 2 minutes per half-hour.

Where 3 boilers are working, 3 minutes per half-hour.

Where 4 or more boilers are working, 4 minutes per half-hour.

HOUSE CHIMNEY FIRING.—Forty-six cases have been dealt with at the Manchester County Police Court during the year, the total fines amounting to £14 8s.

HOUSING.

The total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts) was 344, and the number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925, was 50.

The greater portion of the above defects were remedied by verbal or informal notice. In the case of 52 houses, statutory notices were served on the owners, and at the end of the year only 5 remained outstanding.

At many of the poorer class of house the defects are many, due to lack of attention in the initial stages by owner and also occupier. These assume alarming proportions to an owner when a thorough house-to-house inspection is made of the whole block, and a notice for the whole of the defects served.

Eleven houses were demolished voluntarily by owners during the year.

STORAGE OF PETROLEUM AND PETROLEUM SPIRIT.

A licence was granted to each of the following firms for the keeping of Petroleum, to which the Petroleum Acts apply, each licence being for the duration of 12 months :—

Date.	Firm.	Address.	Business.	Quantity that may be kept.
1925 Feb.	Failsworth Industrial Society.	Newton Heath	General Dealers.	Gallons 500 Petrol
March	Marlborough Mill Ltd....	Ridgefield Street ...	Cotton Spinners.	50 do.
March	Ridgefield Cotton Spinning Co. Ltd.	do.	do.	80 do.
May	James Melling	229, Oldham Road..	Haulage Con-tractor..	500 do.
May	William O. Hicklin	36, Oldham Road ...	Motor Engineer.	100 do.
July	Frederick J. Torrance...	Shepley Street	do.	200 do.
July	Walter Tomkins	486, Oldham Road..	do.	60 do.
Aug.	A. O. Ferguson & Co. Ltd..	Windsor Mill... ..	Indiarubber Waterproofers	300 do.
Aug.	Harold K. Hilton	Springfield Works...	Laundry and Sponge-Cloth Works	400 do.
Aug.	A. O. Ferguson & Co. Ltd..	Windsor Mill	Indiarubber Waterproofers	11000 Naphtha
Oct.	W. Leatherbarrow	138, Oldham Road...	Motor Repairer..	200 Petrol
Oct.	J. C. Howarth	Meadow Mill	Cotton Spinner..	100 do.
Nov.	Ferguson, Shiers & Co..	Phoenix Mills	Indiarubber Waterproofers	80 do.
Nov.	Do. do.	do.	do.	4000 Naphtha
Dec.	Ferranti Ltd.	Wickentree Lane ...	Electrical Engineers.	Carbide of Calcium
Dec.	Do. do.	do.	do.	50 Petrol 40 Mix. Spirit

All the petroleum is kept in separate stores, specially constructed of fire-proof material throughout, and the Regulations otherwise complied with.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.—Twenty-five samples of milk have been taken during the year. These have complied with the Board of Agriculture standard of not less than 3 per cent. of milk fat and not less than 8.5 per cent. of milk solids other than milk fat. Legal proceedings were taken in the case of 3 of the samples for the addition of colouring matter—fines being imposed in each case.

The general adequacy of the arrangements for the supply and distribution of milk of pure and wholesome character is satisfactory.

Much time has been given to the administration of the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, The Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and The Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Orders, a new register having been compiled with separate register for retail purveyors, and several cowsheds have been marked out for improvements and structural alterations.

No examinations are made for tuberculous milk in this district.

There were no licences issued during the year for milk under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923.

COWSHEDS.—There are 22 cowsheds at 12 premises, and the approximate number of cows kept is 143. The frequent inspection of the cowsheds has been responsible for improved conditions under which the milk is produced, but in many instances there are defects which call for attention, namely:—bad floors and walls, insufficient means of lighting and ventilation, defective yard surfaces and unsuitable means for disposal of manure.

DAIRY.—There is only one dairy in the district—that of the Failsworth Industrial Co-operative Society—where a full refrigerating plant is installed, and the milk is chilled by a patent process.

MILK SHOPS.—There are 13 of these premises in the district, which have been kept well under observation. The milk vessels are kept clean, and the premises, due to frequent inspection, are kept in a cleanly condition.

MEAT.—OBSERVATIONS ON :—

The Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, which came into operation 1st April, 1925, has made it imperative for all butchers in the district to give at least three hours' notice of intention to slaughter, except where it is the regular practice to slaughter at fixed times on fixed days, as in the case of the Failsworth Industrial Society. No action has been necessary in cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify, the butchers in the majority of cases rendering every assistance to the proper inspection of all carcasses and organs.

The disposal of diseased and condemned meat, should the need arise, is by means of one of the Lancashire boilers in the district.

All meat stalls in the open market, which is held every Thursday, are covered both top, back and sides, in such manner as to prevent contamination.

Special efforts have been made with regard to the closing of windows at premises where meat is exposed for sale, and the greater portion of the butchers now keep their windows closed.

No breaches of the Regulations have occurred in the transport or handling of the meat.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—There are 8 licensed slaughter houses in the district. The slaughter houses are in good condition, the floors and walls being well constructed and in a good state of repair and cleanliness.

BAKEHOUSES.—There are 31 bakehouses in the district, including one in which there is mechanical power. A number of these are really part of a dwelling-house. All of these were frequently visited, and several minor defects found, which were remedied.

No case of food poisoning was reported during the year.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

This Act is administered by the County Police Authorities. Superintendent Yates has kindly furnished the following particulars and results obtained of samples of food, etc., purchased by the Inspectors within this district, and submitted for analysis to the County Analyst :—

Milk.....	25	Custard Powder.....	2
Butter	2	Pancake Powder	1
Lard.....	1	Cornflower	1
Margarine	2	Marmalade	1
Baking Powder	1	Cheese.....	2
Lemon Cheese	1	Blancmange	1
Jam	2	Suet.....	1
Jelly	1	Beer.....	6
Borax	1		
		Total Samples taken...	51

In connection with the above samples, proceedings were taken in the case of three samples of milk, for added colouring matter—the vendor was convicted and fined in each of the three cases.

SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

Twenty-three privy closets, and 28 pail closets have been converted to fresh water closets during the year. Two pail closets at the Tannery, Poplar Street have been abolished, and four fresh water closets substituted; and three pail closets at Thorley Street Hat-works have been abolished and seven fresh water closets provided. Total number of additional fresh water closets during 1925—64.

The following table shows the approximate number of the various sanitary conveniences in the district at the close of the year :—

CLOSETS.	Houses and Shops	Public B'd'gs & Rec. G'ds	Factories & Workshops	TOTALS
Cesspool closets .....	...	...	8	8
Privy-midden closets	41	2	2	45
Pail-closets	67	2	68	* 143
Fresh water-closets	3514	178	395	4087
Waste water-closets	189	...	1	190
Hand-flushed	20	...	...	20
	3831	182	474	4493
REFUSE RECEPTACLES.				
Cesspools .....	...	...	2	2
Privy-middens (covered) ...	18	...	...	18 {
„ „ (uncovered)..	6	1	1	8 { 26
Dry ashpits (covered).....	46	..	...	46 {
„ „ (uncovered) ...	1	...	...	1 { 47
Metal ashbins	3034	36	2	3072 {
Wood ashboxes	567	0	0	567 } 3639
	3672	37	5	3714

* Six of these Pails are temporary, viz. :—

Lodge Farm Caravans	3
Hut in field, end of Clive Road	1
Caravans in field adjoining Rothwell Street	2

NIGHTSOIL AND REFUSE REMOVAL.

Table showing number of receptacles emptied monthly.

1925	No. of Weeks	Ashpits	Privy Middens	Ashbins	Loads	Pails	Cess-pools	Barrels
January.....	5	79	37	13318	232½	880	2	18
February	4	189	52	12349	192	707	...	12
March	4	113	51	12770	209	685	1	14
April	5	144	42	14886	238½	864	1	16
May	4	143	40	12751	200½	884	1	14
June	4	76	27	12431	183½	649	1	14
July	5	143	59	16550	242½	726	1	17
August	4	93	27	12815	187½	543	1	13
September ...	5	101	39	12005	199	715	1	17
October.....	4	133	56	12666	192½	576	1	14
November ...	4	146	53	12381	198½	574	1	14
December ...	5	110	40	15124	241½	720	1	16
Totals in 1925.	53	1470	523	160046	2517½	8523	12	179
Totals in 1924.	52	1321	520	153961	2518	9231	10	176

The removal of house refuse is carried out by means of horses, carts and a special barrel or tumbler cart for the removal of night-soil from the pail closets.

Three labourers and three drivers are employed by the Health Department for this work, which is carried out as follows :—One driver and one labourer are employed Monday with the emptying of the pails, and the rest of the week are engaged on ashpits and ashbins. The other two drivers and labourers are engaged the whole of the week on ashbins, and the efficiency of the work of these men can be gauged from the fact that it is a very rare thing to receive a complaint about their work.

The night-soil is discharged down a specially built chute to the sewer. The chute is flushed with a hose-pipe (which is connected to a standpipe) after each discharge, and as the inside walls of the chute consist of white glazed bricks, no smell or evidence of the night-soil is visible after the hose-pipe has been turned on.

The rest of the refuse is disposed of on a tip far removed from any habitation, the waste-paper being burned or buried with the other refuse, and the tins, scrap-iron and metal are salvaged.

A man is employed to look after the tip, and salvage the articles mentioned above (for which we receive 10/- a ton).

The contents of the ashpits, privy middens, and ashbins were disposed of at the undermentioned tips, the number of loads being as follows :—

	Green Lane Tip	Broadway	Grimshaw Street	Taylor's, Morton Street	Greaves', ad- joining Brook- dale Park	Hasting's, Jericho Farm	Totals
1925	44	1172½	844½	349	78½	29	2517½
1924	54½	...	1992½	368½	71	31½	2518

The contents of the pails and cesspools were passed into the chute at Shaw Head Farm, Lord Lane, direct into the sewer, 179 barrels being so disposed of.

The revenue from the sale of tins and old iron from Grimshaw Street tip during the year amounted to £9 2s. 0d.

The cost during the year for manual and team labour engaged on refuse removal and disposal was :—

Ashbins	£1132 12 3
Ashpits and Middens	184 1 2
Pails and Cesspools	83 9 7
Holiday Pay	19 7 10
Grimshaw Street Tip.....	125 16 2

The increase in wages, &c., during the year was as follows :—
1925.

	Jan. 1st	Dec. 31st
Team labour charges per hour	2/9	2/9
Labourers' wages per week	49/11	51/4
Nightsoil men's wages per week	59/2	60/10
Including bonus of—Labourers	22/11	24/4
Nightsoil men ...	27/2	28/10

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

JAS. A. JAMES,
Sanitary Inspector.

APPENDICES.

TABLE I.—Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1925 and previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Number	Rate	Number	Rate	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Resi- dents not registered in the District.	Under 1 year of Age.		At all Ages.	
								Number	Rate		
											Rate per 1,000 Nett Births	Number
1920	17,421	440	25.25	150	8.61	4	44	41	93	190	10.90
1921	17,360	387	22.28	148	8.52	5	58	30	77	201	11.57
1922	17,400	305	17.5	190	10.92	3	73	26	85	260	14.94
1923	17,280	301	17.4	150	8.68	...	58	32	106	208	12.0
1924	17,220	260	15.09	142	8.07	3	49	14	53	188	10.91
1925	17,190	291	16.9	119	6.92	...	69	16	51	188	10.9

Area of District in Acres (land and inland water) ... 1,072

Total population at all ages, at census of 1921.....16,973

TABLE II.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1925
Compiled from Local Returns.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	NETT DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF RESIDENTS, WHETHER OCCURRING WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE DISTRICT.								
	All ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upw'rds
All causes { Certified	187	16	5	2	6	8	30	61	59
{ Uncertified	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Enteric Fever.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small-pox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	2	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup.....	3	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...
Influenza	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Phthisis(PulmonaryTuberculosis)	16	...	...	...	...	1	4	9	2
Tuberculous Meningitis	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease.....	17	...	...	...	...	...	2	11	4
Rheumatic Fever	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Meningitis .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Organic Heart Disease	15	...	...	...	1	1	4	6	3
Bronchitis	16	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	11
Pneumonia (all forms)	20	6	2	...	...	2	4	4	2
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs	5	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	4
Diarrhœa and Enteritis	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis.....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Alcoholism .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nephritis and Bright's Disease...	9	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	3
Puerperal Fever.....	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Congenital Debility and Mal- formation,including Premature Birth ..	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	5	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	4
Suicide	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
Other Defined Diseases	61	4	1	...	1	1	7	21	26
TOTALS.....	188	16	5	2	6	8	30	62	59

TABLE III.
REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S TABLE.
Causes of Death, 1925.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males.	Females.
All causes.....	83	105
Enteric Fever .....	...	...
Small-pox.....	...	...
Measles .....	...	...
Scarlet Fever	2	...
Whooping Cough .....	...	1
Diphtheria and Croup	1	3
Influenza	4	5
Encephalitis Lethargica .....	...	1
Meningococcal Meningitis .....	...	...
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	6	10
Other Tuberculous Diseases.....	...	3
Cancer, Malignant Disease	5	12
Rheumatic Fever	1	...
Diabetes	2	...
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	2	7
Organic Heart Disease	5	11
Arterio-sclerosis	9	3
Bronchitis	9	4
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	9	8
Other Respiratory Diseases .....	...	4
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum .....	...	..
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years).....	...	1
Appendicitis and Typhlitis .....	...	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	...
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	3	5
Puerperal Sepsis.....	...	1
Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition .....	...	1
Congenital Debility, &c.	1	1
Suicide	1	1
Other Deaths from Violence	3	3
Other Defined Diseases.....	19	19
Causes ill-defined or unknown.....	...	...
Special Causes (included above)		
Poliomyelitis .....	...	...
Polioencephalitis .....	...	..
Total Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.	5	10
Illegitimate ..	...	1
Total Births.....	152	139
Legitimate	144	131
Illegitimate ...	8	8

Population (for Births and Deaths) ... 17,190.

TABLE IV.

Infant Mortality during the Year 1925.

Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under One Year of Age. Compiled from Local Returns.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks and under 3 Months	3 Months and under 6 Months	6 Months and under 9 Months	9 Months and under 12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 Year
All causes { Certified	3	..	..	2	5	..	3	2	6	16
Uncertified
Small-pox.....
Chicken-pox.....
Measles
Scarlet Fever.....
Whooping Cough.....
Diphtheria and Croup.....
Erysipelas.....
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.....
Tuberculous Meningitis	1	..	..	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases.....
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>).....
Convulsions	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	2
Laryngitis
Bronchitis
Influenza
Pneumonia (all forms)	1	1	4	..	6
Diarrhoea
Enteritis	1	..	1
Gastritis
Syphilis
Rickets
Suffocation, overlying
Injury at Birth
Atelectasis.....
Congenital Malformations	1	..	..	..	1
Premature Birth	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus...	1	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	2
Other Causes	1	1	..	1	..	..	2
TOTALS.....	3	..	..	2	5	..	3	2	6	16

Nett Births in the year—legitimate, 275; illegitimate, 16.

Nett Deaths in the year of—legitimate infants, 15; illegitimate infants, 1.

TABLE V.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1925
OF RESIDENTS WHO DIED OUTSIDE THE DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH		NETT DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF RESIDENTS, OCCURRING WITHOUT THE DISTRICT.								
		All ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and up- wards
All causes	Certified	69	6	1	...	3	4	13	25	17
	Uncertified.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small-pox .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever		2	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup		2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
Influenza .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis										
(Pulmonary Tuberculosis).		7	...	...	...	...	1	2	3	1
Tuberculous Meningitis ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous diseases.		1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease...		4	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...
Rheumatic Fever .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Organic Heart Disease		2	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
Bronchitis		4	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Pneumonia (all forms)		6	2	...	...	...	...	3	...	1
Other diseases of										
Respiratory Organs..		1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Diarrhoea and Enteritis.....		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ..		1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Cirrhosis of Liver		1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Alcoholism .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nephritis & Bright's Disease		1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Puerperal Fever		1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Other Accidents and diseases										
of Pregnancy and Partu-										
rition .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Debility and										
Malformation, including										
Premature Birth		2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violent Deaths, excluding										
Suicide		3	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2
Suicide		2	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
Other Defined Diseases.....		29	2	...	...	...	...	3	13	11
Diseases ill-defined										
or unknown...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS		69	6	1	...	3	4	13	25	17

